

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 15 and 16 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 15 were examined. Claims 1-8, 10-12 and 15 were rejected. Claim 16 was withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein, in addition to the remarks made in the Amendment filed on March 21, 2006 and the correction of the status identifier for claim 15 filed on April 11, 2006.

No new matter has been added.

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed July 13, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the status identifier for claim 15 was incorrect and should have read "Previously Presented". The Examiner indicated that the amendment filed 4/17/06 (mailed on April 11, 2006) did not correct the problem. Applicants telephoned the Examiner to discuss this issue, since the amendment filed on April 11, 2006 does properly identify the status of claim 15 as "previously presented". The Examiner agreed. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this ground of objection as being no longer appropriate.

The Examiner further indicated that the amendment regarding the hyperlink on page 35 of the specification was still objectionable. During the telephone conversation, the Examiner indicated that it would be acceptable to present the address as "ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/LocusLink/LocRpt.cgi?l-6303". Accordingly, Applicants have done so in the above amendment of the specification. The sequence identifier (i.e., SEQ ID 29) is also present in the paragraph, as discussed. Provided above is the corrected "Amendments to the Specification" section.

Conclusion

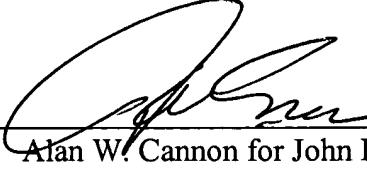
Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078, order number 10020405-1.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF ALAN W. CANNON

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By: 

Alan W. Cannon for John Brady
Registration No. 34,977

John Brady
Agilent Technologies, Inc.
Legal Department, DL429
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 7599
Loveland, CO 80537-0599
Telephone: (408) 553-3584
Facsimile: (408) 553-2365